



Little Wandle Phonics at Elmtree

Our school has now introduced *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised*—an exciting, structured approach to strengthening early reading and phonics.

Why learning to read is so important

- Reading is essential for all subject areas and improves life chances.
- Positive attitudes to reading and choosing to read have academic, social and emotional benefits for children.

How children learn to read

- Phonics is the only route to decoding.
- Learning to say the phonics sounds.
- By blending phonic sounds to read words.
- Increasing the child's fluency in reading sounds, words and books.

Reading fully decodable books

- Children must read books consistent with their phonic knowledge.
- It is essential not to use other strategies to work out words (including guessing words, deducing meaning from pictures, context clues or whole word recognition).
- Books **must** be fully decodable and follow the Little Wandle scheme.
- Children need to read books in a progressive sequence until they can decode unfamiliar words confidently.

The role of Parents and Carers

- Have a positive impact on their child's reading.
- Should model the importance of reading practice to develop fluency.

- Reading at home encourages a love of books, along with developing vocabulary and discussion. Children will bring home two different types of books: reading practice (100%decodable) and a book to share for pleasure.
- Give positive yet informative feedback in the reading diary.

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised is a complete systematic synthetic phonics programme (SSP) developed for schools by schools. It has been extensively revised to provide a complete teaching programme which meets all the expectations of the National Curriculum and enables children to apply their learning and become fluent readers.

Phonics begins in Reception with a daily session working on the grapheme–phoneme correspondence and blending to read. Daily phonic sessions continue into Year 1 and Year 2.

Throughout the phonics programme, progress is tracked and monitored closely to identify children who require ‘keep up’ sessions. These short sessions will be specific to individual needs and will take place throughout the school day. Children will continue to receive ‘keep up’ interventions if needed until they have a secure knowledge of the phonic phases 1-5.

Children will also read with adults in school several times each week. These guided reading sessions take place in small groups and focus on books that are carefully matched to the children’s current phonics learning.

Supporting Your Child with Reading

Phonics is the way we unlock reading for your child. Our goal is for your child to master phonics, so they become a confident reader who loves books. Remember that when children choose to read, they increase their vocabulary, knowledge of the world around them and they develop their empathy. We will share books with your child every day and would love it if you did the same. You can make a huge difference to their reading journey by continuing to practise together at home. Reading with your child really is the best possible way to inspire a love of books in them!

Your child will bring home two types of reading books:

Reading Practice Book

This book is carefully matched to your child’s current phonics stage. If your child is reading it with little help, please don’t worry that it seems too easy — it’s important for them to develop **fluency, accuracy, and confidence** in their reading. We aim for there to be 95% accuracy with your child’s phonics reading book.

We want children to know and feel that they can read: ‘I am a reader, I can read!’

The children will have read this book several times during the week with adults in school. Through these sessions, they focus on developing a range of reading skills, including **decoding** (sounding out words), **prosody** (reading with expression), and **comprehension** (understanding what they have read).

When listening to your child read:

- Give lots of praise and celebrate their success!
- If they find a word tricky, simply read it to them.
- Once they've finished, take a moment to **talk about the story** together — discuss their favourite part, the characters, or what might happen next. Once they can read fluently, they can focus on adding expression when reading aloud and showing their understanding of the book. Use the prompts on the back page of the books to check your child's understanding.
- Please use the **reading record** to note the title and add any comments about your child's reading progress.

We ask that reading books are:

- **Brought to school every day** in your child's book bag.
- **Returned on time**, as books will be collected on **Wednesday** by members of staff.

If a book is lost or not returned, a **£5 charge** will be incurred to cover the cost of a replacement.

Sharing Book (Library Book)

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together. Each week, the children will visit the library and choose a book they'd like to bring home and enjoy sharing with you. This book is chosen for enjoyment and may be beyond your child's independent reading level. It's a great opportunity to snuggle up, share the story together, and talk about what's happening in the book.

Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

Help and Support

For detailed information, help with specific sounds and much more to do with Little Wandle, click on the link below to go to the **Little Wandle Parent Page**.

Little Wandle Website: [For parents | Letters and Sounds](#)

Little Wandle Blending Video: [watchkin.com/e24e39259b](https://www.watchkin.com/e24e39259b)

Little Wandle tricky words video: [watchkin.com/f66341756a](https://www.watchkin.com/f66341756a)

Little Wandle Sound Pronunciations:

 [Reception-grapheme-information-sheet-Autumn-1.pdf](#)

 [Reception-grapheme-information-sheet-Autumn-2.pdf](#)

 [How-to-say-Phase-3-sounds- September 2025.pdf](#)

 [How-to-say-the-Phase-5-sounds-September-2025.pdf](#)

Books coming home:

[For parents | Letters and Sounds](#)

Please see the video link for supporting your child with wordless books: [For parents | Letters and Sounds](#)